

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 12, 2024 * #01-002

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

TOM COSTON

"The Parade of the Future"

Introducer: Michele Ferroni



Tom is Board Chair of Light Bringer Project, a nonprofit organization that provides arts and learning programs for underserved public school students throughout Los Angeles, County and produces major public events, including the Pasadena Chalk Festival, LitFest in the Dena, and the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade.

He has served on the board of numerous nonprofit organizations dedicated to leadership training, youth empowerment, health policy, individuals with autism and their families, and struggling low-income women with children.

He currently serves on the board of Day One and is Board Chair of the Board of Trustees of Room 13, a network of creative studios for young artists headquartered in Caol, Scotland.

Tom will be joined by Jessica Lopez, Program Manager and Kat Ward, Event Manager.

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 17, 2024

PASADENA ELKS LODGE

Must RSVP to attend! RSVP Deadline: Tues. at 10:00 am

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier

Song Leader: Phil Miles with accompaniment by Don Andruess

Inspiration: Phyllis Currie

Scout Zone Reporter: Scott Carlson

Photographers: Dede Venkat & Tammy Silver

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec



You can't just start a Rotary Club. Each club has to be sponsored by another Club. Way back in 1920, the Rotary Club of Los Angeles (LA5) sponsored our Club. In turn, we sponsored 5 clubs, Monrovia, South Pasadena, East Pasadena, Temple City, and Altadena.

A couple of those clubs have since dissolved but one, Altadena, is going strong. So strong, in fact, that they are celebrating their 75th anniversary. The Gala is on February 10th (details in the ad below). Please join me in celebrating their success.

Photo with District Governor Mike Soden

Justene Adamec
626-806-2529
President@pasadenarotary.com

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Wende Lee and Tammy Silver



President Justene Adamec rang the bell at 12:30 for a special meeting featuring District Governor Michael Soden. Our song, led by **Don Andruess** and his guitar with help from the band (Gino Escarrega on drums and harmonica, Joe Totomasi on bass guitar, and Ann Louise Christensen on piano) was chosen by Justene to honor DG Michael many Club visits which involved him "up on the stage, playing the star." Bob Seger's Turn a Page. New member **Young Lee Hertig** gave the inspiration, reminding us that our preconceptions shape our experiences, for good or for ill, and that we should watch out for our confirmation bias!



Announcements: **President Justene** donated \$62 to the Polio Pig to celebrate snagging a place in the upcoming Disneyland 10K race. Why \$62? Because 10K is 6.2 miles! **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** donated \$100 to the Polio Pig to celebrate the fact that **President Justene** just moved from La Canada to Pasadena and is now a card-carrying Pasadena resident and homeowner! **President Elect Stephen Smith** pitched the Community Grants Committee, which is supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) causes this year (contact him if you'd like to join the committee), and the pickleball outing (details below), and **Past President Ken Joe** invited everyone to the upcoming Tyros Dim Sum mixer on January 20 (contact Ken if you'd like to attend).

Michael Desplaines and **Sandi Mejia-Ramirez** brought guests this week. **Sandi's** guests were the chef and the new general manager of the University Club, to which we will soon be returning! **Michael's** guest was a visiting Rotarian from Arcadia Rotary.

We really put our best foot forward for the District Governor and inducted three new members! **Past President Howard Raff** introduced **Ellen Palm-Leis**. She is a longtime San Marino Rotarian who is switching to our Club. Fun fact: She was a Rotary Exchange Student to Lulea, Sweden when she was a senior in high school! She is a lawyer and businesswoman and is currently the president of TanTan Mineral Enterprises, Inc. **Ellen** said, "The only thing that really matters is I have a sense of humor!"

Howard also introduced **Sam Gopinatham**. **Sam** began his work life in the sales of service parts and industrial engines in his home country of India. In January 2010 he founded New Wave Home Care, which provides non-medical care for clients in their homes or in retirement communities. New Wave Home Care is going to be a Corporate Member of our Club. He is married to Jaya Kuman, an attorney, and they have two adult sons. **Sam** said, "I have been a member before but couldn't keep up with the weekly obligation – I'm happy to be a corporate member! and brought one of his Corporate Alternates **Royce Gilder**.

Fred Findley introduced returning member **Deb Raupp**. **Deb** was a previous member of our Club who had to resign in January of last year due to family challenges. They are happily resolved now and **Deb** is back! **Deb** is also a longtime member of Downtown Madison Rotary in Wisconsin. She holds a PhD from UCLA and has a long history of work in leadership development in the academic and corporate worlds. **Deb** said, "My first experience with Pasadena Rotary was in 2004 and I'm really glad to be back!"



L2R: President Justene, District Governor Mike Soden, Ellen Palm-Leis, Howard Raff, Deb Raupp, Fred Findley, San Gopinathan and Royce Gilder

President Justene introduced our speaker, noting that every president thinks they have the best District Governor (“and **PP Mary Lou Byrne**, whose DG was John Chase, will die on that hill!”), but DG Michael really is the best, and not just because he is having his District Conference on a cruise ship! We all observed proper Rotary etiquette and leapt to our feet as he made his way to the lectern.



DG Michael began by asking us all what the Rotary International theme is for this year. Alas, the Rotary banner with the answer has been misplaced in all our moves, so we all sat there silently until he reminded us it’s “Create Hope in the World.” And, he said, “you never know the effect you will have on people.”

And, he said, Rotary really does create hope in the world. Mike himself joined Rotary because of our polio eradication project; his wife, Sylvia, is a polio survivor. Thirty-five years ago, when we began the project, there were 1,000 new cases of polio per day. The numbers are in for 2023, and in that entire year there were just 12 cases of wild polio worldwide! We are thisclose to eradicating it altogether and when we do, Rotary will be the first service organization in history that has eradicated a disease. Mike told us that he donated 20% of his District Governor discretionary fund to Polio Plus. Rotary International added another \$17,000 to that, and the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation match made it over \$100,000!

Mike also spoke frankly about Rotary membership. Our Club, and the District, are experiencing a decline in membership (although, **President Justene** pointed out, our Club is up a net eight members so far this Rotary year!) We need to remind people of the reason they joined Rotary and keep them excited about it. “We are phenomenal,” said Mike, “but we keep it a secret.” Toward the end of spreading the word, there is a new website: www.comeseewhatwedo.org, which will aggregate all the District service projects and let people know all the good works Rotarians are doing. We are also working on publicizing our service projects on social media. Mike says his goal is to increase the total District 5300 membership from its current 1,700+ to more than 2,000 by the end of 2024.

Finally, Mike reviewed some exciting upcoming events: The Peace Conference will be on January 27 at the Richard Nixon Library (details below). RYLA, the leadership weekend retreat for high schoolers, is finally coming back after a 4-year hiatus. And speaking of youth retreats, Mike told us that there was a challenge at Teen Leadership Camp, the junior high weekend program, this year: The buses didn’t show up to take the kids home! Were any kids stranded? No! Did Rotary end up on the evening news? No! The Rotarians on site called the parents,

everybody worked together, and all the kids got home safe and sound and on time!

As **President Justene** mentioned in her introduction, Mike confirmed that the District Conference this year will be June 21-24 and will take place on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship! Sign up now, here: <https://www.district5300.org/district-conference/> The weekend will include an international service project in Ensenada, Mexico as well as a paella cook-off! Don't miss it! (Ed note: This reporter, for one, wouldn't dream of missing it!)

After a question-and-answer period and a lusty round of applause, the meeting was adjourned promptly at 1:30.



L2R: President Justene, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Wende Lee, PE Stephen Smith, DG Mike Soden, Tony Phillips, John Burt



*Check in with Alan Schier & Jane Waas
Any issues with your badge - see
Badge Master Alan*

PASADENA ELKS LODGE
MUST RSVP to attend
DEADLINE TO RSVP: Tues. at 10:00am
office@pasadenarotary.com

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

**RSVP to attend on 1-17-24
Lunch Menu - Buffet**



MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR



INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

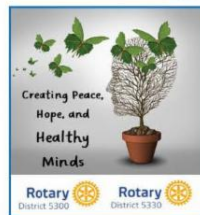
Saturday - January 13th
8:00 to 11:00 AM

4490 Cornishon Avenue (Hogg Hollow Pre-school) in La Canada.

Bottled water will be provided. If you have a pickleball paddle please bring it. We have some extras. There is a good likelihood of the group going out for a late breakfast/early lunch nearby afterwards.

Stephen Smith at ssmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com

Peacemaker of the Year Award
Art for Peace Contest



Garbis Der-Yeghian 34th Annual Peace Conference THEME: Creating Peace, Hope, and Healthy Minds



Saturday, January 27, 2024
Registration Check-in/Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Conference Begins Promptly at 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum



Keynote Speaker:

Brian Rusch

CEO—Out for Equality

Founding Member of RI DEI Task Force

Vice Chair- RI Joint Advisory Council of DEI

Past President and Founder of Rotary eClub for Global Action



Engaging Panel on Mental Health, covering:

Destigmatizing Conversations, Raising Awareness, and Advancing Access



Jenn Freeman

Autistic American
choreographer, dance
performer, and educator



Lora Illig

Former Executive
Director for NAMI
Pomona Valley



Chris Florendo

Team Support Leader
CalHOPE & NAMI Greater
Los Angeles County



Sally Sagario

Operations Manager for
NAMI Long Beach/
Whittier

Registration/Admission

(includes continental breakfast and tour of the museum)

\$40.00: early registration by January 26, 2024

\$45.00: at the door if seats are available

**Students/Interact Clubs/Rotaract Clubs free
registration**

To **REGISTER** and for more information, visit the event website at:

<http://district5300.org/peace-conference/>



Scan for Event Page and
Registration



Rotary District 5300
District Governor
Michael Soden



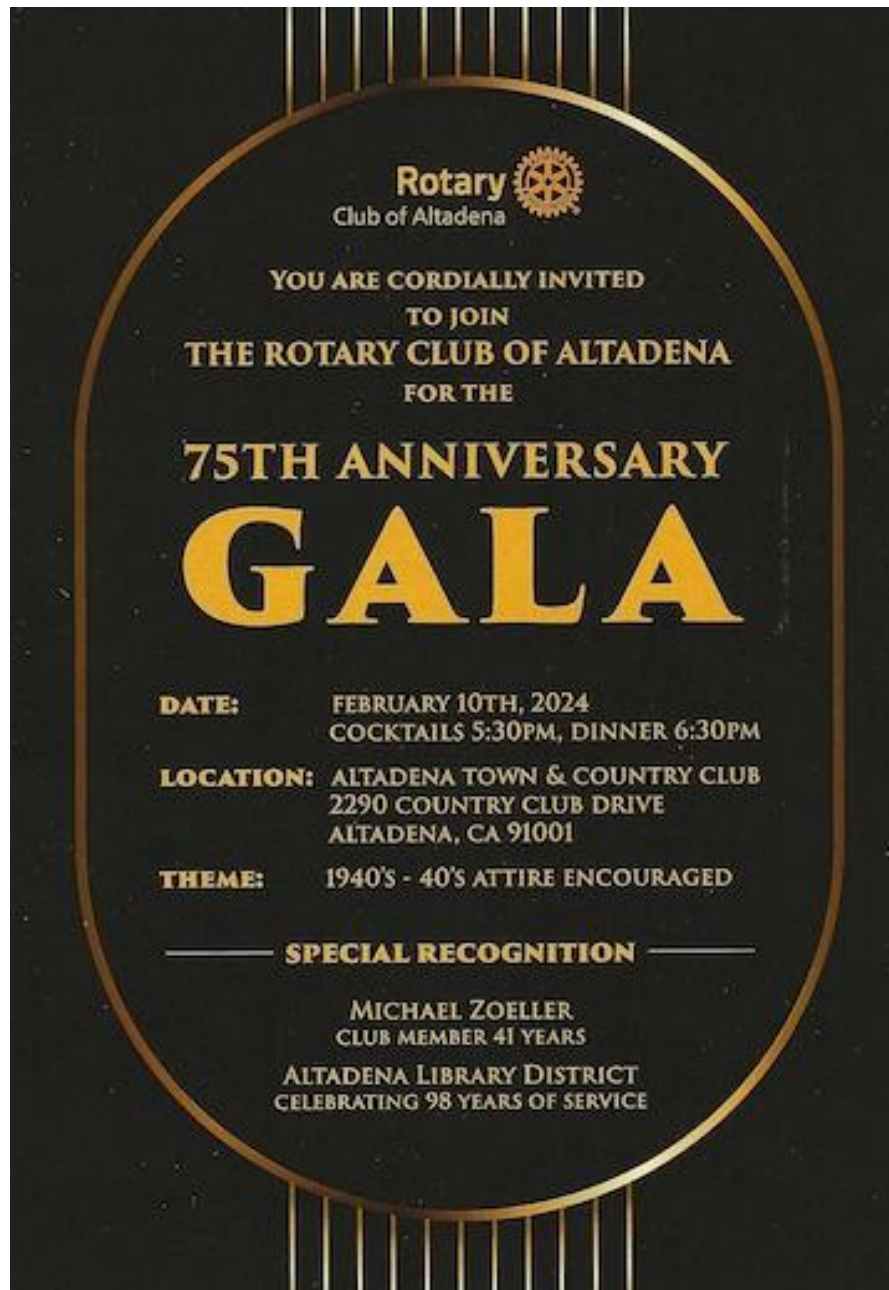
Rotary District 5330
District Governor and
Panelist Moderator
Jamie Zinn



Conference Chair and
Emcee
Rotary District 5300
Mary Ann Lutz

Multi-District Event

JOIN President Justene at the Pasadena Rotary Club Table to celebrate
Altadena Rotary's 75th Anniversary! Tickets are \$100
RSVP - office@pasadenarotary.com



POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED!

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement (30 seconds) about your family, business or a favorite nonprofit or a Committee announcement? Email Wendy at office@pasadenarotary.com by Tues at noon. Minimum donation for Polio Pig Announcement: \$20 or for \$30+ which is billed to your account. Additional \$20 If you wish to leave flyers (in a stack on the table not individual) or a hand-out at end of meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Fred Findley	January 16
Sandy Goodenough	January 18

ROTAVERSARIES!

Mike Farrand	1/15/97	27 Years
Phil Miles	1/15/97	27 Years
Mike Davis	1/18/95	29 Years
Jan Sanders	1/18/06	18 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan. 24th - Tim McDonald - <i>Pasadena Public Library: Past Present & Future</i>
Jan. 31st - Rotary Players - Ground Hog Day
Feb. 7th - Juan Bastos - Celebrity Portrait Painter
Feb. 14th - Nat Read -Raconteur - How I Rode All 22,400 Amtrak Miles in Just 84 Years
Feb.21st - Michele Zack - Altadena Historical Society - Owen Brown: His History & Memorial In Altadena

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
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Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP
Pasadena Elks Lodge - 400 W. Colorado Blvd.
E

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ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena

PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec
PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne
SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni
TREASURER: Tony Phillips
PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT: Hillary Schenk
CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, George Falardeau, Frank Fish,
Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Wende Lee, Tammy Silver,
Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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